

'The Warren Gang'

California Crowd Hears Harangue by Bircher

By Julius Duscha
Staff Reporter

SANTA ANA, Calif., Aug. 29—Outside the night air was cool and refreshing. Inside it was stuffy and frightening.

Thirteen hundred men and women filled the auditorium of the Santa Ana Valley High School to hear Prof. Revilo P. Oliver of the University of Illinois speak for more than an hour. Outside there were a few pickets.



✶ Duscha ✶

His speech included such phrases as "the Warren gang," "Bobby Socks Kennedy," "a hole called Harvard University," and "the supreme directorate of conspiracy, whoever they may be."

But the speech by Oliver (whose first name is his last name spelled backward) occasioned few comments in California's Orange County.

Solid-Looking Audience

Almost every night of the week in the Los Angeles area, of which Orange County is the southernmost part, right-wing extremists are haranguing well dressed audiences made up of middle-class businessmen and their stylishly dressed wives.

These are not little old ladies in tennis shoes from Pasadena. They are not food faddists, religious fanatics or some other kind of cultists. They are solid middle-class Americans.

Oliver, a member of the council of the John Birch Society, got his greatest response during his address on Friday night when he praised the energy and intelligence of the American people.

Then, in mocking tones, he spoke of "the bipeds who are too lazy, too stupid, too savage to work for themselves." His listeners laughed and cheered.

Foreign Aid Ripped

Oliver solemnly warned his audience against becoming entangled in such programs as foreign aid, assistance for underdeveloped countries, world peace and civil rights.

The clear implication of News Analysis

Oliver's words was that white Americans are a super-race and that other peoples are inferior.

At one point he spoke of the "profound biological differences between human races."

He also was openly anti-Semitic. He read, for example, in a mocking Yiddish accent, a letter of criticism that he had received.

There was no question, though, that his audience responded best to his suggestions that they were successful only because they had worked hard and that anyone who was not successful was simply lazy and inferior and, in Mr. Doolittle's words in "My Fair Lady," among "the undeserving poor."

Kennedy's Assassination

Most of Oliver's speech was devoted to a rehashing of charges he made last winter in the Birch Society magazine, American Opinion, that President Kennedy's assassination was part of a Communist plot and engineered with the help of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"I don't know," Oliver said, "whether Oswald was paid by the CIA or by the Soviet secret police—and it's just a matter of bookkeeping anyway."

Oliver also said that under orders from Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara the Army "began to rehearse for the funeral more than a week before the funeral," and there were gasps from his audience.

Teacher of Classics

Oliver, a professor of classics at Illinois, is a large man who speaks with a flat Midwestern accent.

He has become one of the star attractions on the right-wing speaking circuit, and a profitable circuit it is.

It cost \$1.50 to hear him. In addition to the speech, delivered in a dark auditorium from a brightly lighted stage on which a huge American flag had been pinned as a backdrop, each listener got a ticket stub telling him how he could obtain more information about the John Birch Society.

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